

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1609

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI)
SUBJ: REFERENCE NEWS ON BRZEZINSKI VISIT TO PRC

1. THE MAY 25 ISSUE OF THE LIMITED-CIRCULATION REFERENCE NEWS, PASSED TO USLO BY A DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE, DEVOTES VIRTUALLY ITS ENTIRE FIRST PAGE TO THE BRZEZINSKI VISIT. THE JAPANESE AND AMERICAN ARTICLES REPRINTED THERE COMBINE TO GIVE CHINESE READERS THE IMPRESSION THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS BRZEZINSKI DISCUSSED A COMMON STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT THE WARM ATMOSPHERE LAID A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION.

2. THE LEAD ARTICLE IS A JAPANESE JIJI REPORT OF MAY 23 WHICH IS BASED ON JAPANESE SOURCES. IT DESCRIBES BRZEZINSKI'S PEKING TALKS AS "WIDE-RANGING," INCLUDING SOVIET-US RELATIONS, JAPAN, KOREA, AND INDOCHINA. THE CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PFT IS DESCRIBED AS "FORARD-LOOKING". ACCORDING TO AN UNNAMED JAPANESE OFFICIAL, THE BRZEZINSKI PARTY TOLD THE CHINESE OF
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THE US'S FIRM DETERMINATION TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS, BUT PROBLEMS STILL EXIST WHICH WILL REQUIRE FURTHER CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS.

3. A MAY 23 MAINICHI ARTICLE CITES PEKING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN REPORTING THAT VISIT TOOK PLACE IN UNEXPECTEDLY WARM ATMOSPHERE, BASED ON MUTUAL

AGREEMENT ON THE NECESSITY FOR AN ANTI-SOVIET STRATEGY. THE US ATTITUDE IS EXPLAINED PARTLY IN TERMS OF SALT STALEMATE AND CONCERN WITH SOVIET PENETRATION IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. MAINICHI ALSO REPORTS THAT DURING HIS RECENT MEETING WITH FUKUDA THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE PFT. NOW THE US HAS SUGGESTED A "SINO-US ANTI-HEGEMONY ALLIANCE" WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE JAPAN.

4. AN AP DISPATCH FROM TOKYO CONTRASTS THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE BRZEZINSKI VISIT WITH THAT OF LAST YEAR'S VISIT BY SECRETARY VANCE. AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, ACCORDING TO AP, SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS STAGNATED, BUT NOW THEY ARE IMPROVING AGAIN. THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT BRZEZINSKI BELIEVES THAT A FIRM US-CHINA ALLIANCE WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO SALT AND WOULD DISCOURAGE SOVIET MOVES IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. PEKING FOR ITS PART FEELS THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON ARE A DETERRENT TO SOVIET INFILTRATION OF ASIA. THE REPORT SAYS THAT PEKING DIPLOMATS FEEL THE VISIT CREATED A GOOD ATMOSPHERE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

5. IN A COMPANION PIECE IN THE SAME ISSUE, A UPI STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON REPORTS THE MAY 23 STATEMENT
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BY CODEL CRANSTON IN FAVOR OF COMPLETING NORMALIZATION IN 1978. THE REPORT INCLUDES NOT ONLY THE DELEGATION MAJORITY'S VIEW THAT THE US SHOULD ACCEPT THE PRC'S THREE CONDITIONS ON TAIWAN, BUT ALSO THEIR STATEMENT THAT THE US SHOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO GIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TAIWAN IF NECESSARY. THE MINORITY VIEW AGAINST THE THREE CONDITIONS IS ALSO MENTIONED. THE SAME UPI STORY ALSO STATES THAT BRZEZINSKI AGREED IN PEKING TO A CHINESE PROPOSAL TO SET HIGH LEVEL TALKS TO SPEED UP PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.
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